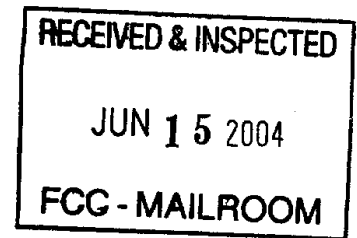


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H E N R E D O N

June 10, 2004

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554



**RE: MM Docket No. 99-325**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to you as a WFAE Board member, public radio listener and financial supporter, to urge the FCC to rule that radio stations may use their digital, High Definition signals for secondary, supplemental audio channels.

Listeners become fans of our public radio station because of the programming and the quality of our audio. HD radio will improve audio quality, but the decisive factor for our station is the capability to create supplemental audio programming (or "multiplexing" to use the Commission's term.)

The station believes the use of supplemental audio is essential to our public service mission and enables us to expand programming to meet listener needs that are either underserved or not served at all.

WFAE and WFHE might use the second channel to time-shift programming that current listeners miss because of their busy schedules.

We might use the channel to provide overseas news 24 hours a day.

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We might use the channel to provide foreign language programming.

Or, we might use the channel to provide music programming such as folk or Alternative, which are not currently available in our service areas.

Second channels present enormous efficiencies. WFAE and WFHE cannot find any efficient, high power signals in their markets for service expansion under the existing technologies.

Public radio stations also need to generate revenue to fund our activities. The potential use of SAC technology for funding purposes will strengthen our ability to continue to serve the public better into the future.

Residing in Hickory, North Carolina, we do not have access to a great deal of quality radio programming and this new powerful signal would be of benefit to our community, especially the arts community in which I am very active. I can see further benefit to our local colleges as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Michael K. Dugan

MKD:sw